

MINUTES
COUNCIL ON RECYCLING
MARCH 3, 2006
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER
1001 AMBER AVE
STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN

Council Members Present: Neil Peters-Michaud; John Piotrowski; John Reindl; William Swift; Charlotte Zieve

Council Members Absent: Jeff Fielkow; Cecelia Stencil.

Also attending: Cynthia Moore, DNR; Eileen Norby, UW-System.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair John Reindl at 12:45 PM

Introductions and Announcements: John Reindl said that was a lot of activity on e-scrap. He said that he is consciously trying to use e-scrap instead of e-waste. Most of the initiatives are some form of producer responsibility.

Reindl said the Governor's Task Force was meeting regularly. At the last meeting they heard about C&D and paper. Stickies were described as the biggest problem for recycling paper. He said the workgroups were meeting at the regular meetings and by conference call. The next meeting is April 5th and they will tour SCA paper mill Menasha. He said the Task Force has a lot of work to do to have recommendations by the end of the year.

Minutes: Approval of the Minutes of January 30, 2006. John Piotrowski moved, Bill Swift seconded. Minutes approved without amendment.

Reports

DNR: Moore said that most of the annual report data was in. She said they are really pushing RU's to submit extra data. She said that the budget was being reviewed. It would go to the Natural Resources Board later this year. The recycling budget proposal included several new initiatives. She said the department plans to take the ideas out for comment as soon as possible.

Moore said that small RU's are not doing very well with business recycling. Reindl asked if the department was working with the haulers. Moore said that they were working with haulers on the notification rule and on getting better data to the RU's. Charlotte Zieve said that people love to recycle but they need more information and education. Moore said that they were going to use the surplus from the Demonstration Grants to fund non-profit proposals for education. It's clear that DNR cannot do enough on its own given the resources it has. Moore said that about \$180,000 will be used for a Request for Proposals for education. Reindl suggested that Education be elevated to a Council priority. Members agreed.

Moore said that they are trying to identify alternative uses for glass. The department is being more flexible in this area but they still want to avoid disguised disposal. Reindl said the glass issue has also come up at the Task Force meetings.

Moore said that the latest e-scrap draft by the Midwest Policy Group would be out soon. They have not made a decision on the form of producer responsibility. Neil Peters-Michaud said that 85% of the Fortune 500 companies think security is the biggest issue in electronics recycling. He said that the Council should decide what is best for the state of Wisconsin and pursue that program. The Council should encourage DNR to view the issue the same way. John Piotrowski said that an economic solution was the only feasible choice. It will not be perfect but we should remember that the perfect is the enemy of the good. Reindl said the model favored by Hewlett Packard would benefit the first company in the state. It would allow them to cherry pick the good equipment and leave latecomers at a competitive disadvantage. He said the TPO model was

better because it leveled the field for all companies. The downside would be a loss of the state's ability to direct changes.

Procurement- Eileen Norby, UW-System, said that state agencies have two statewide contracts related to solid waste services, one for hazardous waste and one for lamps. Until 1998 all agencies had to report their recycling progress to the Department of Administration (DOA). Since that requirement was dropped, there is no central accounting of state agency recycling activities. DOA has responsibility for most of the overall procurement in state government. Some items, such as copy machines, are primarily leased and replaced after their useful life. Cell phones go back to the manufacturer as well. Norby said she has a program for collecting rechargeable batteries using the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation. She is encouraging all campuses and state agencies to join the free program. Norby said there is no statewide contract for recycling computers. Computers are typically purchased, not leased. DOA makes the decision as to which products are leased and which are purchased. UW-Milwaukee has a contract that all campuses can join. Norby said that Surplus With a Purpose (SWAP) gets most of the state agency computers which are either sold for reuse or given to the Bureau of Correctional Enterprise (BCE) for recycling. Both SWAP and BCE charge to accept monitors

Norby said that a state agency group does conduct environmental audits of facilities involved with the hazardous waste and lamp contracts but the group currently does not currently audit any other recycling or waste disposal facilities. She said annual training on waste disposal and hazardous waste materials is provided to state agency employees. Over 500 state employees attend the training, which includes information on solid, universal and hazardous waste.

Reindl suggested that someone from DOA be invited to a future meeting to discuss procurement of computers. Norby wondered if a computer take-back campaign would hurt Wisconsin recycling businesses. Peters-Michaud replied that any take back would probably contract with local businesses for the actual recycling. He said that whether or not Wisconsin businesses were helped was not the point. The council should make recommendations that set policies that are in the best interests of the state and the environment. Reindl asked if any life-cycle analysis was included in the procurement guides. Norby said she had never seen any mention of it.

Paper: John Piotrowski said that he received a letter from 3M with some comments about pressure sensitive adhesives (PSA). 3M said that some PSA's are environmentally friendly and available. If they adhere to other paper they are easy to pull. The problem comes when they dissolve in the water column. Then they are hard to extract. According to a 3M study, technology exists to treat 3M post-it notes.

Piotrowski said that in 2000 an Executive Order to use benign adhesives was signed by President Bush. The order established a four step process: 1) US Postal Service 2) Expand to federal government 3) Expand to state and local governments and 4) Expand to the private sector. Piotrowski said that the Postal Service is using the benign adhesives but he did not know how much of the federal government was following the directive. He said, according to the Executive Order's implementation schedule, it is time for the states to step up and join the process. He said he would ask several industry representatives to attend the next meeting and discuss the issue.

Piotrowski said his company recently spent \$9.2 million in capital to process OCC (which includes stickies removal). According to industry contacts, there are other adhesives that are commercially available and competitively priced.

Electronics: No report

Mercury in Products: Reindl said that he would like to focus on mercury containing products where the Council can make a difference. There has been a gradual decline in mercury products since 2000. Some products that have changed include fever thermometers, mercury switches and thermometers and switches in vehicles. Water treatment plants are working with dentists to reduce mercury contamination from that source.

Reindl recommended that we focus on thermostats and fluorescent lamps. The council can do that by supporting existing programs. Reindl said he would bring five alternatives to the next meeting

Public Comment: None

Other Business

The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2006, at 9:00 AM at the Schlitz Audubon Center, 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd, Milwaukee.

Adjournment: Zieve moved and Swift seconded. The Council adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Daniel B. Fields, Department of Natural Resources.